

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Currently amended)** In a fuel metering unit for a fuel injection system for internal combustion engines with a high-pressure pump driven as a function of the engine speed, wherein the fuel metering unit has a control valve (11) that is actuated by an electromagnet (10) and has a valve piston (25), wherein the valve piston (25) is guided in a valve housing (22), wherein the valve piston (25) is embodied as sleeve-shaped and its inner chamber (26) contains a **front end of a** compression spring (27) that holds it in contact with ~~an the~~ armature pin (14), and wherein ~~a the~~ rear end of the compression spring (27) rests against a spring plate disposed in ~~a the~~ valve bore (24) of the valve housing (22), wherein the wall of the valve housing (22) is provided with at least one ~~, preferably several~~ radial control openings (32) that are formed and ~~for~~ disposed so that the fuel quantity flowing through the fuel metering unit can be adjusted as a function of the stroke of the valve piston (25), the improvement comprising a shutoff sleeve (51) **positioned at least partially** in the inner chamber (26) of the valve piston (25), the valve piston (25) and the shutoff sleeve (51) constituting a shutoff device.

9. **(Currently amended)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, wherein the shutoff device includes ~~is embodied as~~ a ball valve (52, 53).

10. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein a ball (52) is disposed between the shutoff sleeve (51) and the valve piston (25), and wherein the shutoff sleeve (51) has a sealing seat (53).

11. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein the valve piston (25) has a ball retainer (54), and wherein the ball retainer (54) holds the ball (52) in a definite position in relation to the valve piston (25).

12. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 10, wherein the valve piston (25) has a ball retainer (54), and wherein the ball retainer (54) holds the ball (52) in a definite position in relation to the valve piston (25).

Claims 13-16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Currently amended)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, wherein the spring plate includes a groove in which the rear end of ~~further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27)~~ is positioned.

18. (Currently amended) The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein the spring plate includes a groove in which the rear end of ~~further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27) is~~ positioned.

19. (Currently amended) The fuel metering unit according to claim 10, wherein the spring plate includes a groove in which the rear end of ~~further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27)~~ is positioned.

20. (Currently amended) The fuel metering unit according to claim 11, wherein the spring plate includes a groove in which the rear end of ~~further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27)~~ is positioned.

21. (Currently amended) The fuel metering unit according to claim 12, wherein the spring plate includes a groove in which the rear end of ~~Claim 13, further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27) is~~ positioned.

22. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

23. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

24. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 10, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

25. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 11, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

26. **(Currently amended)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 12, ~~claim 13~~, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

27. **(Previously presented)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 17, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

28. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, wherein the shutoff sleeve (51) is positioned within the valve bore (24) and forms a guide collar which maintains the compression spring (27) between the guide collar and the valve bore (24) .